

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of providing at least one scrip from a gaming device, comprising the steps of:

- 5 accepting a cash-out command in the gaming device;
scanning a magnetically manifested code uniquely identifying a scrip stored in the gaming device;
transmitting a cash-out message comprising the code to a remote processor having access to a database for storing and retrieving codes from a plurality of gaming devices;
10 receiving a scrip dispense message from the remote processor; and
dispensing the scrip.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accepting a cash-out command comprises the step of accepting a cash-out command from a remote processor.

15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of accepting a cash-out command comprises the step of accepting a cash-out command from a user playing the gaming device.

20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitted message comprising the code is encrypted by the gaming device according to a key accessible by the remote processor.

25 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the scrip dispense message is encrypted by the remote processor according to a second key accessible to the gaming device.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the magnetically manifested code is pre-coded.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the cash-out message further comprises a cash-out balance.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:
5 accepting the dispensed scrip in a second gaming device;
scanning the magnetically manifested code on the dispensed scrip;
transmitting a cash-in message comprising the magnetically manifested code to
the remote processor;

receiving a credit message indicating the cash-out balance;

10 storing the scrip in the second gaming device for scanning and redistribution by
the second gaming device; and

providing a number of credits in accordance with the cash-out balance.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:
15 accepting a second cash-out command in the second gaming device;
scanning the magnetically manifested code on the stored dispensed scrip in the
second gaming device;

transmitting a second cash-out message comprising the scanned magnetically
manifested code to the remote processor;

20 receiving a second scrip dispense message from the remote processor in the
second gaming device; and

dispensing the scrip from the second gaming device.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

25 obtaining a code uniquely identifying the scrip in the gaming device; and
recording a magnetic manifestation of the code on the scrip.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of generating a code uniquely identifying the scrip in the gaming device comprises the steps of:

transmitting a code request message to the remote processor; and
receiving a message comprising the code from the remote processor.

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12. The method of claim 11, wherein the code is generated using a cash-out value received from the gaming device

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of generating a code uniquely identifying the scrip in the gaming device comprises the steps of:

generating the code in the gaming device.

14. A device for use in transferring game credits among a plurality of gaming devices, comprising:

15 a scrip storage unit;
a scrip dispensing unit having a scrip transducer for reading and recording a magnetically manifested code on a scrip retrieved from the scrip storage unit; and
a processor, communicatively coupled to the scrip transducer and a remote processor having access to a database for storing and retrieving code information from the plurality of gaming devices.

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25 15. The device of claim 14, further comprising a scrip acceptance unit having a second scrip transducer communicatively coupled to the processor, the second scrip transducer for reading a magnetically manifested code on a scrip dispensed by one of the gaming devices.

16. The device of claim 15, wherein the scrip dispensing unit further comprises a scrip acceptance unit drive system for depositing the scrip dispensed by one of the gaming devices in the scrip storage unit.

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17. The device of claim 16, wherein the second scrip transducer includes a read head for erasing the magnetically manifested code before depositing the scrip in the scrip storage unit.